

September 16, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 6,000 members of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, we strongly urge you to support the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013, H.R. 3080, to help upgrade the U.S. water transportation system. This important measure would benefit the economy of every state by ensuring the efficient movement of people and goods on a daily basis.

If enacted, this long overdue legislation would deliver critical investments in our nation's ports and waterways at a time when they are greatly needed. A number of changes to the world shipping fleet, including expansion of the Panama Canal, will bring larger cargo ships to U.S. shores. Furthermore, current forecasts show continued increases in freight movements through the nation's ports over the next decade. As such, federal investments to maintain and expand the capacity of the U.S. navigation system are essential to enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace. The legislation would also take important steps to improve the effectiveness of federal water infrastructure investments by reforming the project review and approval process for water infrastructure improvements.

The economic benefits of H.R. 3080 would extend well beyond long-lasting, improved infrastructure. The projects supported by this legislation would also support jobs in the U.S. construction industry—which continues to suffer the after effects of the recession—and at the nation's seaports and other water infrastructure facilities.

We commend House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.), Ranking Democrat Nick Rahall (D-W.V.) and their committee colleagues for working in a bipartisan manner to develop this important legislation. We urge all members of the T&I committee to support moving the bill out of committee and on to the full House of Representatives as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



T. Peter Ruane
President and CEO